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(54) Title: METHANOL-CONTAINING SILICA-BASED CMP COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a polishing composition comprising (a) a silica abrasive, (b) methanol, and (c) a liquid carrier, wherein the polishing composition has a pH of 1 to 6, and the polishing composition is colloidally stable. The invention also provides a method for polishing a substrate comprising a silicon-based dielectric layer using the polishing composition. The invention further provides a method of stabilizing a silica abrasive in a polishing composition by contacting the abrasive with methanol.